

**Town of Sunset Beach
Town Council
Called Special Meeting Minutes
October 8, 2015**

Members Present: Mayor Ron Watts, Mayor Pro-Tem Lou DeVita, Councilman Wilson Sherrill and Councilman Mike Williams

Members absent: Councilwoman Carol Scott and Councilman Terry Johnson,

Attorney & Staff Present: Susan Parker, Town Administrator; Rawls Howard, Planning Director; Dustin Graham, Public Works Director; Bonnie Schwerd, Finance Officer; Jenna Pettit, Deputy Finance Officer; Kevin Dempsey, Fire Chief, Richard Childres, Assistant Fire Chief; Lisa Joyner, Police Chief; Joe Smith, Deputy Police Chief and Lisa Anglin, Town Clerk.

Mayor Watts called the Work Session to order and advised that the purpose of the Special Meeting was to receive a Storm Assessment Report from Staff. The storm occurred from October 1st through October 6th and dumped 18+” of rainfall in Sunset Beach and the surrounding areas.

Susan Parker, Town Administrator, and Staff reviewed a powerpoint presentation outlining the storm assessment and damaged areas that have either been repaired or are in the process of being repaired. Staff will be working with County Officials to provide municipal assessment information for submittal to the State and Federal Authorities.

Parker advised that the majority of the damage occurred within the town roadways and right of ways with minor personal property damage. Several sink holes occurred due to storm water drainage issues. Staff is working with the State, County and private HOA/POAs to mitigate repairs. Staff deployed cones, barricades and sandbags during the event to problem areas.

The beach strand experienced moderate erosion as sand was moved around on the strand but loss of sand was not noted. No walkways were damaged, however escarpment within a few feet of the walkway entrances to the strand has been discovered.

Rawls Howard, Planning and Inspections Director, noted the majority of private property damage is related to island bulkheads that were compromised due to the tidal surge and property owners are being notified.

Parker advised that approximately 96’ of the Town Park bulkhead was damaged and Staff will meet with a repair person later this week.

Chief Dempsey advised that Fire Department personnel provided mutual aid to the Calabash Fire Department in the Brunswick Plantation, Carolina Shores and Springmill communities that were flooded. Captain McDonald and Fireman Gaskins rescued 10 people and cleared 17 houses by boat in those communities.

Parker advised that the police, fire, public works and communications departments worked well together during the event although the communications started slow on Friday; WebEoc, the website and e-alert emails were updated and sent timely throughout the remainder of the event.

Concerning the curfew enacted Saturday night, Mayor Watts advised that Police Chief Joyner and Fire Chief Dempsey requested a curfew be enacted for public and staff safety. Throughout the day, Staff observed motorists not adhering to the warnings from officials to remain off the roadways, were driving around safety barricades and cones, and entering flooded roadways and areas endangering themselves, emergency responders and staff thereby warranting the request for the curfew.

Concerning mosquitos, Graham advised that the Public Works Department staff is mitigating by placing briquettes in areas with standing water and distributing briquettes to citizens from Town Hall for distribution into standing water on private property. Staff is spraying within Town limits daily to reduce the mosquito population.

The Council thanked the Susan and her Staff for their efforts during the event.

COUNCILMAN SHERRILL MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN. COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY A 3 TO 0 VOTE.

Town of Sunset Beach

Ron Watts, Mayor

Submitted by:

Lisa Anglin, Town Clerk

*The October 8, 2015 Special Meeting minutes were approved by the Town Council during the November 2, 2015 meeting.